

decades fighting illegal loggers and ranchers in the jungle.

Tragically, nine days before her death, Dorothy Stang warned Brazil's Human Rights Minister that she and farmers faced constant death threats and needed protection. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched a federal investigation into the case and called a special cabinet meeting.

Dozens of land activists are killed each year in Brazil as they confront militias armed and paid by landowners. Few cases are solved in rural areas, where local police forces are often allied with the landowners.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the government of Brazil to work toward a permanent end to the violence and to disarm and disband all illicit armed militia. I call upon the government of Brazil to implement judicial and police reforms to stem the rising violence, and take immediate measures to protect human rights defenders and land activists from death threats.

President Lula's investigation into this case must be transparent and the perpetrators of this murder must be brought to justice.

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CHINA'S PROPOSED "ANTI-  
SECESSION LAW"

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**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was elected to a second term last March, he has attempted to reach out to China on many occasions in hopes that cross-strait relations could be improved. Unfortunately, China has not responded positively to Chen's many goodwill gestures. The massive Chinese military build-up along the coast continues, China's bellicose rhetoric continues, and China is now planning to enact an "anti-secession (or anti-separation) law" aimed specifically at Taiwan. Understandably, the Taiwanese people have been reacting to this proposed law with alarm. If Chinese leaders persist in passing this law, Taiwan might be forced to enact an anti-annexation law of its own as a proper response to China.

This battle of laws is most unfortunate in view of the fact that cross-strait relations have been improving in recent days. On January 15 this year China and Taiwan agreed to have direct charter flights during the Chinese New Year holidays, and both sides agreed to continue to work toward restoring direct trade, transport and postal ties—the "three links." Moreover, the economies of China and Taiwan have grown increasingly interdependent as Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and as many as one million Taiwanese now live and work on the mainland.

The latest controversy about China's proposed anti-secession law has once again highlighted the political division between China and Taiwan. China is seeking to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and force its own style of government on the 23 million people of Taiwan. China has totally ignored Taiwan's contributions to China's strong economy and President Chen's repeated gestures of good will.

We must alert everyone that China's latest move to enact the anti-secession law will not only destroy the goodwill between the people of Taiwan and China, it is also unnecessarily provocative and will lead to escalating tension in the Taiwan Strait. Taiwanese people should not sit idly by and allow authoritarian Chinese government to mandate the annexation of democratic Taiwan; neither should any freedom-loving people in the world.

By unilaterally changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, China is also challenging America's will to stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act which says unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States "to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan." The Taiwan Relations Act also affirms one of the objectives of the United States as "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan."

Mr. Speaker, it is my view that China's proposed anti-secession law is provocative and dangerous and poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the region. I urge the Chinese government to step back from confrontation and stay on the path to reconciliation and friendship with the free people of Taiwan.

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THE OCCASION OF THE 17TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE NAGORNO  
KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVE-  
MENT

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**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership, and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable armed forces and independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

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BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO  
JESSIE D. BANKS

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**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Ameri-

cans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Jessie D. Banks of Holmes County, Mississippi. A native of Tchula, MS, Mrs. Banks received her Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1963 and served as an elementary school teacher in Tchula until 1986. Mrs. Banks is not only noted in Holmes County for her long and distinguished career in education, but also for her dedication in public service and the political arena.

Mrs. Banks was elected as the first African-American Alderwoman for the City of Tchula in 1977. Mrs. Banks served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta in 1988 and in Chicago in 1992. In 1989, she was elected as the first African American woman mayor of the City of Tchula. She was re-elected mayor in 1993. Mrs. Banks returned as a delegate to the DNC in Los Angeles in 2000 and the 2004 DNC convention in Boston.

Mrs. Banks' public service and political career spans many other public endeavors including NAACP President for Holmes county, Commissioner of Regional 6 Housing Authority, and membership in Habitat for Humanity, The National Council of Negro Women and a life member of the National Alumni Association for Mississippi Valley State University.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

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TRIBUTE TO JAMES EARL  
MOBLEY. AGRICULTURE  
'STATESMAN'

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**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend and a longtime resident of Shorterville in Henry County, Alabama in my Congressional district who passed away on February 15.

Among the sizeable farming community in Alabama, James Earl Mobley would need no introduction. He was a tall man both physically and in character. Indeed, for many years in the Halls of Congress, Mobley was also well-known to more than a few agriculture lawmakers.

Considered a 'statesman' of agriculture, Mobley's diplomatic skill, coupled with his vast knowledge of peanut farming, were assets to growers, the industry and Congress. For decades there was probably no stronger, or more